PROCEEDINGS
of
THE TRAVANCORE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

SECOND COUNCIL.

ELEVENTH SESSION 1942/1117.

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Friday, the 17th July 1942/1st Karkatakam 1117.

The Council met in Joint Session with the Sri Mulam Assembly in the Legislative Chamber, Public Offices at 12-30 P. M. the President Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan of Travancore presiding.

President : Mr. Financial Secretary.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Aiyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*) :

Sir,

After this year's budget was presented to this House last year, fresh developments have taken place in the war situation. The war has come nearer to the shores of India and it may also be asserted that we are not far from the danger zone. There is in consequence a larger diminution of our overseas trade due to a practically complete lack of shipping facilities and import restrictions. The difficulty in getting materials and machinery for our productive capital works is becoming more acute. The transport facilities for our trade with the other parts of India and also for the import of food grains, which Travancore needs for her home consumption, have become lessened. There are however, some redeeming factors in the present situation. Unlike last year there is now a demand for cocoanut products and coir products with an increase in prices and the acute distress which prevailed among the working classes has, to some extent, been alleviated, due also to the receipt of war orders for our goods. The prices of our local produce such as pepper, ginger, cocoanut oil and rubber have gone up considerably. I am alluding to these factors in the general situation as a preface to my forecast, as they have a bearing on the estimates now being presented. This Budget may in fact be described as a War Budget, both as to the forecasts of receipts and expenditure. Before reviewing the financial prospect of the next year I shall as

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[Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Aiyar.]

usual, deal briefly with the final accounts of the year 1116 which are now available and also with the Revised Estimates of this year, as to how they compare with the previous anticipations.

ACTUALS OF 1116.

2. In the Revised Estimates for 1116, we expected a total revenue of Rs 273·09 lakhs and a total revenue expenditure of Rs. 267·61 lakhs thereby expecting a revenue surplus of Rs 5·48 lakhs. But the actuals turned out better and stood at Rs 276·79 lakhs and Rs. 270·16 lakhs respectively, resulting in a surplus of Rs 6·63 lakhs. The increase of Rs 3·70 lakhs in revenue was mainly on account of the larger exports and imports under land customs during the latter part of the year than was originally anticipated.

3. On the expenditure side, there were increases under Forest (Rs 1·33 lakhs) due to payment of arrears of kolevila and under Miscellaneous Political Expenditure (Rs 1·89 lakhs) due to contribution for War purposes.

4. In the capital section, the capital expenditure less capital receipts was expected to result in a net drawal of Rs 35·02 lakhs. But the actuals amounted only to Rs 32·86 lakhs on account of the slow progress of our capital works due to the difficulty in obtaining materials from abroad, a difficulty which is still continuing and is affecting our works programme.

REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1117.

5. I shall now proceed to a general consideration of the Revised Estimates for the current year.

The budget for the year anticipated a revenue of Rs 280·73 lakhs. But on the basis of the actuals so far available, the revenue is expected to mount up to Rs 301·41 lakhs, a peak point not reached so far in the history of the State, the figure being much higher than the revenues of any State in India save Hyderabad and Mysore alone. The details of all the variations are explained in the Memorandum, copies of which are placed on the table with the Budget Estimates for the ensuing year. In the present international situation with all its devastating effects of a far-reaching nature, this result will naturally be a surprise. In view of the possibilities of the adverse effects of the war on our finances, the estimates of revenue for the year were originally fixed on a very conservative basis. This, with the scrupulous care which the Government, under your able guidance and supervision, Sir, have always been exercising in husbanding the resources of the State, accounts for the marked improvement that is expected in our revenue position.

6. Betterment of revenue realisations is anticipated under almost all the principal heads of revenue. But the most conspicuous of these is our Customs Revenue, which is expected to exceed the budget figures by about Rs 7·5 lakhs. Honourable members will be gratified to be

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